

***Remarks***

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3, 4, and 6-13 are pending in the application, with claims 1, 9, 12, and 13 being the independent claims. Claims 2 and 5 were previously cancelled. Claim 13 is sought to be amended to more clearly point out the subject matter recited therein. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections that they be withdrawn.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 1, 3, 4, and 6-12 are allowable.

***Objection to Claim 13***

Claim 13 was objected under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75 as being a substantial duplicate of claim 9. Applicants respectfully traverse this objection.

Claim 13 is not a substantial duplicate of claim 9 because claim 9 contains an additional feature that is not present in claim 13. Specifically, the feature "means for initializing the spare space to all zero data," as recited in claim 9, is absent from claim 13. Conversely, claim 13 recites "means for allocating the spare space on a dedicated spare drive of the first array of disk drives" which is not found in claim 9. Accordingly,

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the objection of claim 13.

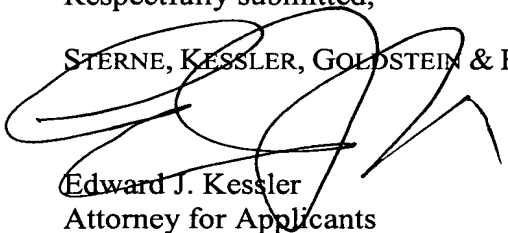
### ***Conclusion***

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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